

Mass Intentions ~ February 18-24, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Hehir Family (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Robert Phipps (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Barry Bossa (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Patrick Hurley (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Arlene Eddington (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Amy Catherwood, sister-in-law of Eileen Balmes

Betty Sue Swan, sister-in-law of Iris Harrison

Mary Lou Peebles, friend of Cheryl Rivers

Repose of the Soul:

Dr. Carl Moran, brother of Barbara Westerfield & Frances Gordy

Jasper Gamberini, father of Kristina Gamberini-Garland

Lloyd Pousson, uncle of Monica Walton

(see the full prayer list on our website & prayer board)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5pm **Adoration this week:** Monday—Friday, 8am-12noon

Altar Flowers & Blessed Mother Flowers are in honor of the People of this Parish

~ notes ~ dates ~ events ~

No Religious Ed Classes this Sunday! Classes resume next Sunday. (Youth Group does meet this Wednesday.)

Catholic Service Appeal 2019 — Your gift to the CSA supports the education of our seminarians, promotes the lifelong formation and education for Catholics involved in youth and adult ministry, helps those served by Catholic Charities, and other important ministries of our diocese. These needs of our diocesan ministries are real. Your generosity in prayer and through your sacrificial gift, make it possible to provide these services, and more importantly, to bring the message of the Gospel to all people. To date, our Parish has raised \$28,372 of our \$70,519 goal. For more on information about the Appeal or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org/in-action/stewardship-development.

Bingo Night February 22nd, 7 pm — The Women's Guild is sponsoring Bingo for adults in the Family Life Center. Cash prizes. Snacks and beverages provided. BYOB.

Women's Guild Lunch & Movie on Monday, February 25th @ 11 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Beverages and popcorn provided. Movie TBA.

St. Dominic Ministry February 26th, 10 am — Sign up at the information table today to donate lunch items for families of I.C.U. patients.

Office phone: 601-992-9547 Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

blessed are they who hope in the lord
psalm 1



Our mission is to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

God's Invitation / Our Response

Last week, we introduced the new vision of our Community Leader Ministry. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church, and we want that truth to be evident in our Eucharistic Celebrations. We want to restore and rediscover the importance of celebrating with joy, reverence, and essence of the Paschal Mystery. From the time of the apostles, Christians have continually come together to celebrate, to listen to Scripture, and to offer Thanksgiving. The Liturgy is a communal encounter of Christ that brings us all together as family — brothers and sisters in Christ. Historically, the Church hasn't done a good job of inviting us to that sense of community and family. The church had traditionally supported our presence at the Eucharistic Celebration as individuals, where everybody was invited to a personal participation in their own way.

The wonderful expressions of the Second Vatican Council provided a whole new perspective. The Eucharist is a communal celebration, a coming together of the local community to celebrate as a community, not as individuals. This was based on our deeply held beliefs throughout our Church history that God calls us as His community, not as individuals. Many other Christian denominations proclaim the importance of personal relationship. We also proclaim the importance of having a personal relationship with Him, but we believe that it finds its fullest expression only in the gathering of His community. After all, He has called us as His People (His Community) not as individuals. The Old Testament is the ultimate expression of that reality.

It is God who invites us to come together each week at St. Paul Parish. It is not Father who invites us. The priest leads us in many parts of the Mass — our response as the community of believers is essential. The Lector leads us in hearing the Sacred Word, the Eucharistic Ministers lead us in partaking of Holy Communion, the Greeters and Ushers welcome and lead us into the celebration. The Mass is a dialogue between us (collectively) and the Lord. Our participation is an expression of our personal response to God.

We are all connected in our response. My Faith supports the next person. Their Faith supports me. We support each other in Faith. When I proclaim the Word, when I distribute the Eucharist, I am feeding you; and your reception and response in turn feeds me. Ministry is not about doing for the congregation; it's being one with the congregation. When the choir sings and the congregation joins them, it lifts the whole gathered community. We give glory to God this way! It is not a show or performance that people come to observe. This is why we so strongly encourage lively responses and participation by everyone.

The changes we are making in Liturgy are about giving glory to God as a community. We are not trying to reinvent anything, and there is no need to. The Liturgy is a Sacred Celebration of the Paschal Mystery through which the Mystery of Christ among us comes alive in all the people present. Our main goal is to foster full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgical Celebration in order to encounter the Living God in the Word and Eucharist, then return to the world fulfilling our baptismal call to discipleship. The parts of the Mass plant the seed which God will grow.
(more on the following pages)

Now, we will take a deeper look into more of our Ministries at St. Paul Parish. Our hope is that a better understanding of these Ministries will result in a greater love of serving in Ministry, and a more meaningful experience of the Mass for all.

Greeter — *This Ministry involves meeting and greeting people at the door before Weekend Masses, and was developed in the Spirit of Hospitality that we want to extend to everyone. Greeters are the first official contact with a member of St. Paul Parish, and work to engage all who enter before the start of Mass. We want all who have taken the time and effort to join our Liturgical Celebration — regular attendees, newcomers, and visitors alike — to feel equally welcome by extending a feeling of genuine Hospitality complete with a smile, handshake, holding the door open, etc. You are the face and hands of Christ extending His welcome to all.*

When people see a friendly face in the Greeter welcoming them, they can release any tensions, worries etc. they may have faced getting to this point. Think of helping them dispel the stress of getting a young child dressed and ready, getting a reluctant teen out of bed, worry about finances, traffic issues, illness, loneliness, and more, if only for that moment. We do this joyfully, welcoming everyone in the Spirit of Christ before they enter the Sanctuary, and assisting with any special needs as requested. We are seeking people who will embrace the importance of this ministry, show up at least 20 minutes before Mass time, and be that first friendly face at St. Paul. It is such a simple task that makes a huge impact.

Usher — Ushers continue the spirit of Hospitality begun by the Greeters, and help assure the Liturgical Celebration flows smoothly. This Ministry can be traced back to the very first gathering of people offering Hospitality – helping another feel welcome and finding their place at the event. Jesus, Himself, most certainly escorted His disciples to their seats at the Last Supper. We know He washed their feet and made them feel welcomed, loved, and blessed by their presence and participation.

Likewise, ushers are vital to helping people feel comfortable and welcome at our Celebrations. Whatever baggage they carry into the Church can be checked at the door when they see a friendly face of the Greeter welcome them. But, it doesn't end there. They are relieved of any potential stressors or worry of things like finding seats, understanding the Communion lines, contributing to the collection, receiving a bulletin, directions to the restroom, etc. We have seated the Ushers on the back pews that they may be available to help minimize distractions and traffic during Mass. They are instructed to ask people to stand in the back and not return to their seats during the Readings, Homily, Consecration, Songs, and Prayers.

When we are engaged in these moments, giving our full attention to Sacred Scripture, Reflection, turning our hearts and minds to God, movement breaks our concentration. God is speaking to us through the Lectors, Priest, Cantor, and Community Leader. How important to respect that and not cause the speakers or listeners to lose focus. Our hope is that everyone, adults and children, will grasp the significance of not moving about the Sanctuary during these key moments in the Mass. But, in the event that anyone feels they must leave their seat, the Ushers are instructed to encourage them to wait for an appropriate time to return to their seat. Ushers and Greeters are easily identified by their name tag, giving more personal assistance. How comforting, especially to visitors and newcomers!



Lector: — The Lector proclaims the Word of God in the First and Second Readings of the Mass. These Readings are Scripture passages taken from the Bible chosen by the Church to express teachings pertinent to the Liturgical Season. The same Readings are heard in every Catholic Church each week. Our First Reading is always from the Old Testament, and the Second Reading is from the New Testament. What a great honor and distinction to be called to proclaim God's Word to our brothers and sisters in Christ! The Lector is not merely a reader, they are a Proclaimer of His Word! The Word of God proclaimed in the Liturgy is a living Word with power to nourish and transform both those who proclaim it and those who hear it. When the Sacred Scriptures are read, God Himself speaks to His people through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Word needs to be heard clearly by our community in order for it to come alive in us. Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium* that the hearts of the faithful who gather on the Lord's Day are nourished both by His Word and by the Bread of Eternal Life. Being fed at both tables gives strength for the whole journey.

We seek Lectors with a clear speaking voice and a good level of comfort to stand in front of the congregation. Time is needed to prepare during the week leading to Sunday. All Lectors are given use of the *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word* that they may read and pray over the Scripture. Spending time with the Word opens up that Scripture and connects us to God. He reveals Himself to us through His Word. The Workbook explains the meaning and historical context, pronunciations, inflections, and tips for proclaiming that particular passage. Even professionally trained speakers need familiarity with the text before they present it publicly.

Eucharistic Minister — *Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist have the privilege of administering Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to our brothers and sisters. Through this humble service, God unites the giver to our fellow members of the Body of Christ, and actually forms all of us in the body. These Ministers have an authentic love for Christ present in the Eucharist and in His people. Being aware of the precious Body and Blood helps Holy Communion become a genuine sign of Christ's self-sacrifice. The Sacred Species — bread and wine turned to His Body and Blood — is an outward sign of love that flows from the heart of Christ and from those who share it.*

Jesus instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood at the Last Supper. Historically, only a Priest or Deacon could administer Communion, but in the 1970s, this became a lay Ministry as well. Lay Ministers also assist with distributing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. This is a great honor and a wonderful way to serve our St. Paul Parish Family, as a Eucharistic Minister, not just a Holy Communion distributor. Sharing the Body and Blood of our Lord forms us more intimately into the Body of Christ bringing us into communion with Him and with each other. We start with our humble offering --- bread and wine, human food of little value. God the Father lets that bread and wine become the Body and Blood of His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. We receive back our human gifts as the richest divine gift of God's Love -- God's Beloved Son. St. Augustine taught that through these gifts, and our very lives, sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ, we become what we receive.

Each Eucharistic Minister has the dignity and responsibility to become what he/she gives, and to live as the Body of Christ with our brothers and sisters. None of us is worthy and deserving of this gift. Jesus invites us into His mystery that we may be saved. It is not a solemn affair, it is a joyful privilege and we hope it shows on the faces of our Ministers as well as on the faces of all who are receiving Communion.



The Mass is our prayer of thanksgiving to God for His Salvation given to each of us. How do we respond to His invitation to encounter Him in the Mass?

We invite everyone to pray about this. We are in need of more people to serve in our various Ministries.

Ask the Lord what gifts He is calling forth from you. Where does He desire you to serve?

We will provide training on the specific protocols for serving in our Parish. We ask for a serious commitment to serve and to be engaged, whether serving on the altar or participating in the pew.